WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image processing method of detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image, obtaining a hue of said highlight point and said shadow point from plural pixels of said luminosity, and executing a correction process on said original image based on said highlight point, said shadow point and said hue: wherein

said correction process executes matching of the color solid axis of said original image with an axis indicating the luminosity, and contrast adjustment on a color component indicating the luminosity of said original image.

2.   An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said correction process executes correction on a color component indicating the hue of the original image, and adjusting the saturation of the original image.

3.   An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of preparing a histogram based on a color component indicating the luminosity of the original image; and detecting said highlight point and said shadow point from said histogram.

4. Am image processing method according to claim 3, wherein, in the preparation of said histogram, data of high saturation are not included in the histogram.

5.   5. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein said correction process is executed for a photographic image and not executed for a text image.

6. An image processing method comprising the
10   steps of:
        detecting a color solid axis of an original image;
        judging an exposure state of the original image from a positional relationship between said color solid axis and an axis indicating the luminosity in a color
15   space representing the color solid; and
        setting an image correcting condition according to a result of said judgment.

7. An image processing method according to claim
20   6, wherein said image correcting condition is a condition for adjusting the contrast of a component indicating the luminosity of said original image.

8. An image processing method for effecting an
25   image correction process on an original image according to the color distribution of the original image comprising steps of:

detecting a color solid axis of the original image
in a predetermined color space; and

controlling said image correction process based on
a positional relationship of said color solid axis in
5   said color space.

9.   An image processing apparatus provided with
means for detecting the luminosity of a highlight point
and a shadow point of an original image, means for
10   obtaining a hue of said highlight point and said shadow
point from plural pixels of said luminosity, and means
for executing a correction process on said original
image based on said highlight point, said shadow point
and said hue; wherein
15   said correction process executes matching of the
color solid axis of said original image with an axis
indicating the luminosity and contrast adjustment on a
color component indicating the luminosity of said
original image.
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10.   An image processing apparatus comprising:
detection means for detecting a color solid axis
of an original image;

judgment means for judging an exposure state of
25   said original image from a positional relationship
between said color solid axis and an axis indicating
the luminosity in a color space representing said color

solid; and

setting means for setting an image correcting
condition corresponding to a result of said judgment.

5   11.   An image processing apparatus for executing
an image correction process on an original image,
corresponding to the color distribution thereof,
comprising:

detection means for detecting the color solid axis
10   of the original image in a predetermined color space;
and

control means for controlling said image
correction process based on a positional relationship
of said color solid axis in said color space.

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12.   A computer readable memory medium in which a
program of an image processing method is stored, said
program comprising the steps of detecting a luminosity
of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original
20   image; obtaining a hue of said highlight point and said
shadow point from plural pixels of said luminosity; and
executing a correction process on said original image
based on said highlight point, said shadow point and
said hue, wherein said correction process executes
25   matching of the color solid axis of said original image
with an axis indicating the luminosity and contrast
adjustment on a color component indicating the

luminosity of said original image.

13. A computer readable memory medium storing a
computer program for realizing:

5   detection means for detecting a color solid axis
of an original image;

judgment means for judging an exposure state of
said original image from the positional relationship
between said color solid axis and an axis indicating
10   the luminosity in a color space representing said color
solid; and

setting means for setting an image correcting
condition according to a result of said judgment.

15   14. A computer readable memory medium in which a
computer program is stored, for realizing:

detection means for detecting the color solid axis
of an original image in a predetermined color space;
and

20   control means for controlling said image
correction process based on a positional relationship
of said color solid axis in said color space,

wherein said program causes an image correction
process to be executed on the original image
25   corresponding to the color distribution of the original
image.